



ENGINEERING OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 12, 2004 – 10:30 A.M.  
UPTRAN CONFERENCE ROOM

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*Present:* J. Friend J. Polasek B. J. O'Brien  
C. Roberts J. D. Culp R. Safford  
T. Fudaly C. Bleech T. Anderson  
E. Burns

*Absent:* L. E. Tibbits M. VanPortFleet J. W. Reincke

*Guests:* M. Bott M. Harrison R. Cadena (For M. VanPortFleet)

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Approval of the Minutes of the April 1, 2004, Meeting – J. Friend**

The minutes of the April 1, 2004, meeting were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **AASHTO Guidelines for Geometric Design of Very Low-Volume Local Roads (ADT  $\leq 400$ ), 2001 – R. Cadena**

Several local agencies have requested the use of AASHTO's *Guidelines for Geometric Design of Very Low-Volume Local Roads (ADT  $\leq 400$ )* in the design of selected very low-volume projects. A subcommittee was formed with members from MDOT's Local Agency Programs and the County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM) to discuss acceptance of the guidelines. The subcommittee agreed to the use of the *Guidelines for Geometric Design of Very Low-Volume Local Roads (ADT  $\leq 400$ )* with four modifications. A traffic safety analysis must be signed and sealed by a professional engineer registered in the state of Michigan. (This requirement was agreed to by MDOT, CRAM and the Michigan Municipal League.)

**ACTION:** Approve the *Guidelines for Geometric Design of Very Low-Volume Local Roads (ADT  $\leq 400$ )* with four modifications, as recommended.

2. **Revision of Portable Changeable Message Sign Guidelines – M. Bott**

The current *Portable Changeable Message Sign Guidelines* prohibit the use of safety related messages on idle portable changeable message signs within or near construction zones. The Office of Highway Safety Planning has required the use of portable changeable message signs to display safety related messages. The *Portable Changeable Message Sign Guidelines* have been revised to allow this use. The revisions have also added abbreviations from the 2003 *Federal Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* that may be used, and added a list of unacceptable abbreviations.

**ACTION:** Approve the revisions to the *Portable Changeable Message Sign Guidelines*. The Traffic and Safety Support Area will prepare a Bureau of Highway instructional memorandum to distribute the new guidelines.

3. **Pavement Demonstration Program Plan – B. O’Brien**

State legislation was enacted in 2001 (Public Act 259) that allows the department to conduct pavement demonstration projects. The legislation specifically states, "...the department may conduct not more than four pavement demonstration projects each year to construct and evaluate new methods, materials, or design."

After partnering efforts with industry and input from MDOT leadership, MDOT has developed a plan to meet legislative requirements and demonstrate new pavement designs. A demonstration plan for projects through the construction season of 2005 has been revised as requested, and is being submitted for approval.

**ACTION:** Approve the revised demonstration project selections as submitted.

4. **New Region Representative – J. Friend**

Mark Chaput, University Region Engineer, will be joining EOC as the new region representative beginning with the July meeting. Thanks to Roger Safford for his work on the committee during this past year.

(Signed Copy on File at C&T)

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Brenda O’Brien for Jon W. Reincke, Secretary  
Engineering Operations Committee

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cc:	G. J. Jeff	S. Mortel	K. Peters
	K. Steudle	D. Jackson	J. Ingle
	L. Hank	W. Tansil	J. Steele (FHWA)
	EOC Members	D. Wresinski	A. C. Milo (MRBA)
	Region Engineers	R. D. Till	G. Bukoski (MRBA)
	TSC Managers	D. A. Juntunen	R. J. Risser, Jr. (MCPA)
	Assoc. Region Engineers	J. Ruskowski	D. Hollingsworth (MCA)
	T. Kratofil	C. Libiran	J. Becsey (MAPA)
	M. DeLong	R. J. Lippert, Jr.	M. Newman (MAA)
	B. Kohrman	T. L. Nelson	M. Nystrom (AUC)
	J. Shinn	T. Phillips	J. Murner (MRPA)
			R. Brenke (ACEC)